



Delta Counties Coalition

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County
"Working together on water and Delta issues"

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
President Pro Tem
California State Senate
State Capitol Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Karen Bass
Speaker of the Assembly
5750 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 565
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Dear President pro Tempore Steinberg and Speaker Bass;

The five counties encompassing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta have formed a coalition to better represent the residents of the Delta in the myriad plans for change presently underway. The Delta Counties Coalition wishes to express our support for inclusion of the concept of 'Delta as a Place' as an additional co-equal goal to be incorporated into the current plans and legislation related to the Delta ecosystem and reliable water supply for the state.

Current legislative proposals have carried forward the concept of the co-equal goals of ecosystem restoration and reliable water supply, with which we agree, but have failed to recognize the third fundamental component of the Delta – the people who live here. The Delta community is comprised of many towns, businesses, farms, schools, and homes, has its own history and culture, and an economy based on the health of those farms and communities. The Delta Counties Coalition (Coalition) does not believe that the co-equal goals of ecosystem health and water supply can be successfully achieved without including the Delta itself – also a resource of statewide significance - as an equal component.

Solutions for the Delta will only be successful if the Delta is understood and recognized for the values it contains, and that recognition must come early - not as a result of the law of unintended consequences. The Coalition offers to engage in substantive discussion with the Legislature and asks that this offer be met with the commitment to include sustaining the Delta community as a co-equal goal with ecosystem health and reliable water supply.

Proposed solutions for Delta problems are on a large scale and will result in a significant degree of change to the Delta. We ask that these proposals include a sustainable Delta as a necessary outcome. Factor into proposed solutions the great number of other characteristics that define the

Delta - its economy, agricultural industry and culture, communities, recreation, critical infrastructure, and the people that live and work in the Delta. They are also your constituents.

We appreciate your efforts to protect the Delta, and look forward to working with you to resolve its problems while planning for its sustainable future.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Bonilla
Chair
Contra Costa County



Michael J. Reagan
Solano County Board of Supervisors



Don Nottoli
Member, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
District 5



Mike McGowan
Chair
Yolo County



Larry Ruhstaller
Supervisor
San Joaquin County

cc: Senator Patricia Wiggins, 2nd District
Senator Lois Wolk, 5th District
Senator Mark DeSaulnier, 7th District
Assembly Member Jim Nielsen, 2nd District
Assembly Member Roger Niello, 5th District
Assembly Member Noreen Evans, 7th District
Assembly Member Mariko Yamada, 8th District
Assembly Member Dave Jones, 9th District
Assembly Member Alyson Huber, 10th District
Assembly Member Nancy Skinner, 14th District
Assembly Member Joan Buchanan, 15th District
Assembly Member Bill Berryhill, 26th District
Senator Dean Florez, 16th District
Senator Loni Hancock, 9th District
Senator Tom Harman, 35th District
Senator Christine Kehoe, 39th District
Senator Abel Maldonado, 15th District
Senator Fran Pavley, 23rd District
Senator Joe Simitian, 11th District
Assembly Member Tom Torlakson, 11th District